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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	2401.139.US
First Named Inventor	Kenneth M. Adams
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	10 / 781,852
Filing Date	February 20, 2004
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Surgical Elongate Blade Assembly with Interchangeable Inner Member, Kit and Method Relating Thereto

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
60/448,773	02/20/03	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

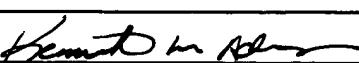
I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.			
As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number 36139 → <input type="checkbox"/> Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below			
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Robert H. Epstein Karen M. Gerken	24,353 31,161		

<input type="checkbox"/> Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.			
Direct all correspondence to: <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number _____ OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below			

Name	Robert H. Epstein		
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		Fax	(301) 610-9569

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
Given Name (first and middle if any)				Family Name or Surname				
Kenneth M.		Adams						
Inventor's Signature							Date	4-5-04
Residence: City	Jacksonville	State	FL	Country	US	Citizenship	US	
Post Office Address	10336 Cypress Lakes Drive							
Post Office Address								
City	Jacksonville	State	FL	ZIP	32256	Country	US	

Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

MAY 27 2004

O I P E
P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E

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PTO/SB/02A (11-00)

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)****Supplemental Sheet**Page 1 of 1

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Gary		Peters	
Inventor's Signature			Date <u>4/1/04</u>
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412 Sugarwood Drive			
Mailing Address			
City Knoxville		State TN	ZIP 37922
		Country US	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Inventor's Signature			Date
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
Inventor's Signature			Date
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country

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